Sharing of waters between Delhi and neighbouring States

3501. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister had recently convened a meeting of Chief Ministers of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan and Lieutenant Governor of Delhi to discuss the sharing of water between Delhi and the four neighbouring States; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of this meeting and whether the matter has been resolved?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In pursuance of the decisions taken in the meeting held on 28th March, 1992, further discussions on the construction of proposed Renuka Dam, Parallel channel for Delhi, Hathnikund Barrage, Kisau dam and on the matters concerning apportionment of Yamuna Waters for drinking water purpose took place in the Inter-State meeting held on 19th July, 1992. There was broad consensus of approach between the States practically on all the associated issues and it was decided that one more meeting of the Technical officers will be taken by the Chairman, Central Water Comsion for sorting out some of the gaps in the information and data and to reassess carefully the figures of use and availability of water from the Yamuna river upto Okhla. It was also agreed that the next Inter-State Meeting of the Chief Ministers will be held on 17th August, 1992 for taking a final decision on all the issues.

As per the above decision, Chairman, Central Water Commission held a meeting with the technical officers of the Basin States on 29th July, 1992.

Seepage of water from unlined canals

3502. SHRI SOM PAL:
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total land area in our country which is waterlogged due to seepage form unlined canals and channels;

(b) what are the estimated losses in terms of quantum, percentage of water and agricultural production incurred because of this phenomenon;

(c) whether it is a fact that the savings can be effected in these items by lining the canals and channels;

(d) what is the total length of unlined canals and channels in the country and what is the estimated cost of lining of all these; and

(e) whether Government have any plans for lining these canals and channels and what are the details and time frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) The area water-logged due to seepage from unlined canals and channels has not been separately estimated. The Working Group set up by the Ministry of Water Resources for identification of area affected by water logging, soil salinity and alkalinity in irrigated areas in their Report of December 1991, have estimated the total area affected by water logging in the irrigated commands to be of the order of 2.46 million hectare.

(b) Seepage in unlined irrigation canal system varies between 30 per cent — 45 per cent of the water entering the canal head. However, a part of this seepage water is utilised as ground water. Loss in agricultural production depends on the extent of water logging and the type of crop grown Hence general estimates are not possible.